

TELEGRAM-INcoming

IMMEDIATE

Amembassy Madrid

UNCLASSIFIED

AMERICAN EMBASSY

1973 DEC 18 PM 2 13

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FM FBIS KYRENIA

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RUEBFGA/VOA WASHDC

RUDOMKA/FBIS LONDON

RUFHGV/US MISSION GENEVA

RUESFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON

RUESMDQ/AMEMBASSY MADRID

RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS

FBKY

BT

UNCLWS BBC RUFL

FOR HAROLD SAUNDERS WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY

SYRIA DECIDES AGAINST ATTENDING GENEVA TALKS

M181358 DAMASCUS SANA IN ARABIC 1342 GMT 18 DEC 73 M

((TEXT)) DAMASCUS--IN LIGHT OF RECENT CONTACTS, INCLUDING THE CONTACTS WITH EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES DURING THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS; AND IN LIGHT OF THE VARIOUS FACTORS PROVIDED BY THE CURRENT SITUATION AND POINTING TO A NUMBER OF MANEUVERS AIMED AT SERVING "ISRAELI" INTERESTS AS WELL AS AT MAKING THE CONFERENCE DISCUSS PARTIAL MATTERS THAT WILL DRAG US TO ENDLESS LABYRINTHS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTENUATING THE BASIC ISSUE AND DIVERTING IT FROM THE PATH OF DRAWING UP A PROGRAM FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORIES THAT WERE OCCUPIED IN 1967 SIXTYSEVEN AND OF DRAWING UP A DEFINITE PICTURE THAT WILL INSURE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE; IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH WILL CONVEY ON 21 TWENTYONE DECEMBER 1973 SEVENTYTHREE WW/MOORE/HK 18/1403Z DEC

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